**Documentation on *Mapping the life and work of Arno Schmidt***

**Retrieving the data**

Our dataset was gathered by close reading the collected works of Arno Schmidt along with two secondary readings, which focus on chronicling the places he resided in throughout his life as well as main geographical references within his writings.

The consulted sources are as follows:

‎Schmidt, Arno: Bargfelder Ausgabe, Werkgruppe I. Zürich: Haffmans 1987.

Rauschenbach, Bernd: Besser wohnen. Studien zu Leben und Werk Arno Schmidts. Hannover: Werhahn 2021, S. 24–105.

Rathjen, Friedhelm: Bargfeld und die Welt. Ein Arno-Schmidt-Bildatlas. Norderstedt: Edition ReJoyce 2010.

The data was first collected in an Excel spreadsheet with three different sheets: The first one “locations\_lived” contains all the locations, where Arno Schmidt lived throughout his life. The second one “locations\_referenced” contains all the locations, which are referenced in Arno Schmidt’s prose writings, while the third sheet contains all the referenced writings themselves.

**Structuring the data**

In order to make the dataset as tidy as possible and to avoid any ambiguity, we strived for including as few columns as possible containing variables with mutable information independent of the rows. We also only included variables which we deemed necessary for our subsequent geographical analysis to create a dataset adequate for our mapping methods.

For the creation of “locations\_lived” we only included locations, at which Schmidt resided for a longer period of time – thus we did not include any data on shorter trips, vacational or vocational leaves. In order to account for historical accuracy we made separate columns for the original name (i. e. the name the respective location had during Schmidt’s actual stay) as well as the current name (i. e. the name the respective location is now known under). This decision was also a compulsory inclusion for geo coding the place names afterwards via their longitude and latitude. Due to geopolitical upheavals during Schmidt’s lifetime many of the entries for state and/or country experienced considerable change and were therefore also included in both their original and their current affiliation. We also included the exact address for “locations\_lived”, because of the fact that they were stated in the source text and could generate further insights into the exact locations Schmidt resided and their relation to his working environment. The column “category” functions as a categorical indicator if the respective location was situated in a rural or urban setting. Last but not least the sheet also contains the columns “moved\_in” and “moved\_out”, which provide information for how long Schmidt resided at the different locations.

The second sheet “locations\_referenced” shows – at least in its preliminary structure – a lot of overlap with “locations\_lived”. Here we decided to not include a more specific “address” column but opted for more variety in the “category”, by including also regions and islands, given the fact that Schmidt included a wider array of topographical properties in his literary oeuvre than in his personal life. In adherence with our tidy data philosophy we opted for making each geographical reference per work its own row. The column which contains the information on the textual reference itself points to the third sheet via a unique identifier.

The final sheet “works” all the titles of the referenced works from the second sheet and also their years of first publication.

**Possible shortcomings of the data**

As previously stated, we only focused on Schmidt’s geographical locations in his prose works and thus neglected any other works of his such as essays or poems. We also decide to exclude shorter stays or other sojourns, which nevertheless might still play a crucial role in understanding the recurrence of specific places mentioned throughout Schmidt’s works, to which there are no obvious pointers connecting “locations\_lived” and “locations\_referenced” in our dataset. Our decision to assign the different locations only to a small set of different categories could be a potential problem for further, more detailed geographical analysis, which might for example aim for additional enquiries in the microcosmic qualities of a respective location and its impact on the actual working environment of Schmidt.